



RCE/2826

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**REQUEST  
FOR**

**CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)  
TRANSMITTAL**

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.  
See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

Application Number	09/982,144
Filing Date	October 19, 2001
First Named Inventor	Hideo NAKAGAWA et al.
Group Art Unit	2826
Examiner Name	Leonardo Andujar
Attorney Docket Number	740819-673

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

**NOTE:** 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

**1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114**

- a.  Previously submitted
- Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_ (Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
  - Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_
- b.  Enclosed
- Preliminary Amendment/Reply
  - Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
  - Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
  - Submission of Formal Drawings
  - Petition for TWO-month Extension of Time

**2. Miscellaneous**

- a.  Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(l) required)
- b.  Other \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Fees** The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

- a.  The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 19-2380
- RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)
  - Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_
- b.  Check in the amount of \$1,190.00 enclosed
- c.  Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**

Name (Print/Type)	Donald R. Studebaker	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	32,815
Signature		Date	November 3, 2003

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION**  
[37 CFR 1.8(a)]

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Signature:	
Name:	Deborah Movahhedi

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Hideo NAKAGAWA et al.

Application No. 09/982,144

Filed: October 19, 2001

For: SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE HAVING  
METAL INTERCONNECTS (AS  
AMENDED)



) Group Art Unit: 2826  
Examiner: Leonardo Andujar  
Confirmation No. 7544  
Date: November 3, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION  
[37 CFR 1.8(a)]

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Signature:

Name: DEBORAH MOVAHEDI

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop **RCE**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed June 3, 2003, please consider the amendments and remarks in connection with the above-identified application as follows.